

Abstract of the Disclosure

Disclosed is a conveyor chain including modular links interconnected by an elongated transverse connector rotatably supporting article engaging assemblies including rotatably mounted caps. In one embodiment, the caps are provided with a generally spherical outer surface and are mounted for rotation about an axis generally transverse to a longitudinal axis of the connector. This arrangement thus allows for article conveyance with low backline pressure while facilitating the smooth and efficient diversion of an article in a direction generally transverse to the direction of chain movement through engagement with the caps. The chain may be of fixed length, or alternatively may be adapted to undergo side-flexing movement to negotiate curves or bends when driven in an endless path over a support structure forming part of a conveyor system, as well as longitudinal expansion and compression. One or more spacers may laterally offset the article engaging assemblies on alternating connectors forming the chain.